

How can I match the GEOID from data.census.gov with the GEOID from the TIGER/Line Shapefiles?

In comparison to GEOIDs in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles, the GEOIDs in .csv downloads from data.census.gov contain nine extra characters in the beginning that identify the:

- 3-digit summary level
- 2-digit geographic variant
- 2-digit geographic component
- “US”

Using this quick trick in Excel, you can create a new column to remove the first nine characters. This will allow you to connect the data from your data.census.gov download with the TIGER/Line Shapefiles so you can map it.

In the download from data.census.gov:

- Open the .csv download that contains “data_with_overlays” in the file name using Microsoft Excel. Please check out the [flyer on How to Download Tables as a CSV File](#) if you need help getting this step.
- Find the column labeled “GEO_ID.” It will often appear in column A. If GEO_ID is placed in a different column, copy and insert it in column A.
- Right click column B and click “Insert.”
- Using the MID function, we can populate this new column with only the portion of the GEO_ID after “US.”
 - Click into cell B3.
 - Type the formula **=MID(A3,10,LEN(A3))** and press **enter**.

This tells Excel to look at the GEO_ID in cell A3 and keep the values from the 10th character forward.

- Apply the formula in cell B3 to the entire column with these steps:
 - Click into cell B3.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	GEO_ID		NAME	DP03_000	DP03_000	DP03_000
2	id		Geographic Area Name	Estimate!!	Margin of	Percent Es Pe
3	0400000US17	17	Illinois	1E+07	5459	1E+07 (X
4	0400000US19	19	Iowa	2506580	3373	2506580 (X
5	0400000US29	29	Missouri	4907003	4497	4907003 (X
6	0400000US32	32	Nevada	2420990	3306	2420990 (X
7	0400000US42	42	Pennsylvania	1E+07	5368	1E+07 (X
8	0400000US49	49	Utah	2329530	2979	2329530 (X

After completing these steps, you will be able to connect the GEOID from the TIGER/Line Shapefiles with the new GEOID you created in column B.

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